

Serial No. 10/720,578  
Attorney Docket No. AUC-32824-A

Response to Office Action of April 21, 2005

### AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

In response to the Office Action mailed April 21, 2005, the Applicants amend the Specification as follows:

Please replace the title of the invention with the following amended title:

Coating for ~~Stationery~~ Cutting Implements.

Please replace paragraph [0007] with the following amended paragraph:

[0007] A cutting implement having a pair of ~~complimentary~~complementary cutting blades and a titanium chromium nitride coating is also provided. The titanium chromium nitride coating is disposed on each of the cutting blades. The titanium chromium nitride coating has a thickness in a range between about 0.3 and 0.5 microns, a surface roughness in a range of about 15 to 25  $10^{-6}$  inch/inch, and a hardness in a range of about 5.7 to about 9.1 ~~gegapaseals~~gigapascals.

Please replace paragraph [0019] with the following amended paragraph:

[0019] Each blade 22, 26 has a cutting edge 28. Preferably, cutting edge 28 is formed by way of a bevel 30 disposed on each blade 22, 26, respectively. Thus, scissors 10 provide a pair of ~~complimentary~~complementary cutting blades 22, 26 for cutting stationery products, such as paper, cardboard, bristol board, and others.

Please replace paragraph [0043] with the following amended paragraph:

[0043] Coating 32 having the desired hardness, smoothness, and diffusion barrier properties preferably is formed of titanium chromium nitride having about 35 percent by weight of titanium nitride and about 65 percent by weight of chromium nitride and with a hardness in a range of about 5.7 to about 9.1 ~~gegapaseals~~gigapascals. More preferably, coating 32 has about 50 percent by weight of titanium nitride and about 50 percent by weight of chromium nitride and a hardness in a range of about 7.2 to about 7.6 ~~gegapaseals~~gigapascals.

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Please replace paragraph [0050] with the following amended paragraph:

[0050] Blade 120 is disposed in housing 122 opposite blade 118 as illustrated in FIG. 7. Blade 120 has a cutting edge 124 formed at its outer periphery, while blade 118 has a corresponding cutting edge 126. Rotary cutting mechanism 114 is also movably received on rail 116 such that cutting edges 124, 126 can be moved into contact with one another. Accordingly, trimmer 110 has a pair of ~~complementary~~complementary cutting blades 118, 120.

Please replace paragraph [0052] with the following amended paragraph:

[0052] Blades 118, 120 are preferably made of steel, more preferably stainless steel, such as 420 stainless steel. In addition, blades 118, 120 can be heat-treated to further increase the hardness of the ~~complementary~~complementary cutting blades.

Please replace paragraph [0054] with the following amended paragraph:

[0054] Coating 132 provides the ~~complementary~~complementary cutting blades 118, 120 with extremely tough, hard, wear resistant characteristics. This increased hardness provides trimmer 110 with substantially increased longevity, while also providing the trimmer with corrosion resistance, as well as providing a smooth and uniform appearance and color. Coating 132 provides trimmer 110 with an aesthetically acceptable color or appearance and reduces friction between the cutting blades during use.

Please replace paragraph [0056] with the following amended paragraph:

[0056] Coating 132 having the desired hardness, smoothness, and diffusion barrier properties preferably is formed of titanium chromium nitride having about 35 percent by weight of titanium nitride and about 65 percent by weight of chromium nitride and with a hardness in a range of about 5.7 to about 9.1 ~~gigapascals~~gigapascals. More preferably, coating 32 has about 50 percent by weight of titanium nitride and about 50 percent by weight of chromium nitride and a hardness in a range of about 7.2 to about 7.6 ~~gigapascals~~gigapascals. Thus, coating 132 provides trimmer 110 with a visual indication that the coating had been applied, without affecting the consumer's impression of the target use of the scissors (i.e., general household use). Moreover, coating 132 provides trimmer 110 with drastically improved hardness over the uncoated trimmers.

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Please replace paragraph [0058] with the following amended paragraph:

**[0058]** Trimmer 210 has a base 212 and a pivoting cutting mechanism 214. Base 212 has a fixed cutting blade 216. Pivoting cutting mechanism 214 has a movable cutting blade 220 pivotally secured to base 212 at a pivot point 218. Each blade 216, 220 has a cutting edge 224. Accordingly, trimmer 210 has a pair of ~~complementary~~complementary cutting blades 216, 220.

Please replace paragraph [0060] with the following amended paragraph:

**[0060]** Cutting blades 216, 220 are preferably made of steel, more preferably stainless steel, such as 420 stainless steel. In addition, cutting blades 216, 220 can be heat-treated to further increase the hardness of the ~~complementary~~complementary cutting blades.

Please replace paragraph [0062] with the following amended paragraph:

**[0062]** Coating 232, like coating 132, provides the ~~complementary~~complementary cutting blades with extremely tough, hard, wear resistant characteristics. This increased hardness provides trimmer 210 with substantially increased longevity, while also providing the trimmer with corrosion resistance, as well as providing a smooth and uniform appearance and color. Coating 232 provides trimmer 210 with an aesthetically acceptable color or appearance and reduces friction between the cutting blades during use.

Please replace paragraph [0063] with the following amended paragraph:

**[0063]** Coating 232, like coating 132, can be made of titanium nitride (TiN), chromium nitride (CrN), or titanium chromium nitride (TiCrN). More preferably, coating 232 is a multiple component barrier of titanium chromium nitride. Coating 232 is formed of titanium chromium nitride having about 35 percent by weight of titanium nitride and about 65 percent by weight of chromium nitride and with a hardness in a range of about 5.7 to about 9.1 ~~gigapascals~~gigapascals. More preferably, coating 232 has about 50 percent by weight of titanium nitride and about 50 percent by weight of chromium nitride and a hardness in a range of about 7.2 to about 7.6 ~~gigapascals~~gigapascals.